

Today

Walking Sticks in War.
Nothing Cheap for Long.
Our German Pay Roll.
Suffrage and Chivalry.

The doings of a British staff officer, reported with perfect seriousness by the Associated Press and in a special London Times dispatch, are extremely interesting. We quote literally:

"Single-handed and armed only with a heavy walking stick, he (the British captain) attacked and killed or dispersed a group of German machine gunners in a munition dump near his headquarters."

He was captured, and "killed his German captors with his walking stick."

Read some more:
"He himself, armed with two revolvers, shot down eight German machine gunners and held the position until relief arrived."

We used to hope that our American fighting boys from Texas would surprise the British by their deeds, but we do not hope so any more. We cannot think of any American boy that could kill a group of armed Germans with a walking stick or do up "eight machine gunners" all alone with two revolvers.

It is a delight to know that we are working against Germany with such assistance. If there are many more men like that British staff officer in England, the war cannot last much longer.

If you read of such an achievement in fiction, it would sound almost impossible.

Eight Spaniards are killed by a German submarine on a Spanish ship. The eight Spaniards will be decently buried, and there the thing will end. Germany cannot get a fight out of Spain and knows it. Alfonso knows that this is no time for kings to hunt trouble.

A new scheme, with alleged Government endorsement, for using "cheap kerosene" in automobiles. Very nice, but once established the DEMAND for kerosene and the dealers will take care of the price.

We used to buy gasoline for less than the present price of kerosene, and used it to clean type for the printers, before the days of the automobile—but we cannot do it now.

"Eat corn meal instead of wheat flour, it is so much cheaper and almost as nourishing," said the statesman—and, "strongly" corn meal becomes as expensive as wheat flour.

You need only let it be known that the people really want something and must have it—somebody will see to it that the price goes up.

The Cosacks, whose mere name means brutality, bloodshed, and cruelty, are the supporters of the allies in Russia against Germany. And the well-meaning peasants, tired of slaughter which, unable to read, they do not understand, have united with fanatics that dream of brotherhood and play the game of Germany.

Thus, the mass of Russians in greatest need of the peace and freedom that allied victory would bring, do all they can to prevent that victory.

German officers, prisoners in the United States, are paid by our Government the salary paid to American officers of equal rank. This excites criticism, but it need not. International law, adopted by the second Hague Peace Conference, in 1897, reads as follows: "Art. 17. Officers taken prisoners shall receive the same rate of pay as officers of corresponding rank in the country where they are detained, the amount to be ultimately refunded by their own government."

At the end of the war Germany is expected to pay back to us any money that we pay in the way of salary to German prisoners. Americans made prisoners in Germany will be paid by the German government a sum equal to the pay of German officers of the same rank or private soldiers—and this money we shall refund when the war is over.

Champ Clark is for woman suffrage, naturally—he has been ever since he began to think about it, for he is one of the real democrats.

New York State owes woman suffrage to the President.

We hope soon to announce that women owe a suffrage amendment largely to Champ Clark and his kind of democrat.

Either woman is man's equal or she isn't. Every Congressman opposing the suffrage amendment declares woman to be inferior.

It is too late for any twaddle about chivalry and all that nonsense. Women don't want chivalry, they want the right to VOTE—the right to protect with the ballot their children from child labor and their pocketbooks from trust and profiteer extortion.

And by the way, they will get that right; nothing will stop it. Neither chivalry, which is another name for hypocrisy, nor any other device of those that in their hearts hate women with idiot and child.

WEATHER:
COLDER
TONIGHT
AND
SATURDAY

NUMBER 10,377.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1917.

[Closing Wall Street Prices.]

PRICE: WITHIN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 10 CENTS; ELSEWHERE, 20.

TWO WASHINGTON MEN IN CASUALTY LISTS

GEI. CROZIER'S REVELATIONS SHOW SPEED AFTER DELAY

Ordnance Making Rushed After Decision to Equip Army Only With American Guns Is Decided Upon.

President Wilson welcomes the probe of his conduct of the war, it was stated at the White House this afternoon. In the Senate's military investigation and the inquiry into naval affairs decided upon by the House the President thinks a true spirit of democracy lies. That the Administration is democratic in fact as well as in name and is glad to give the public an insight into war affairs was stated to be the President's position.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.
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Upon Secretary of War Newton D. Baker has fallen the responsibility of explaining to Congress the admitted delays in furnishing ordnance and small arms to the United States army now preparing for action in France.

Maj. Gen. William Crozier, testifying before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, has named Congress and the Secretary as two agencies responsible for the fact that this country today is behind in its ordnance supplies, although the committee itself is manifestly not satisfied with General Crozier's statement as to the activity of his own bureau in getting ready for war. These salient facts stand out in the testimony to date.

Action Long Delayed.
Although it was evident early last winter that this country would be forced into the war with Germany no extraordinary steps were taken to prepare arms and guns beyond departmental conferences having for their purpose the expansion of the Ordnance Bureau, the letting of contracts authorized by Congress in a previous session and the determination of a general policy.

This policy, as outlined by General Crozier, amounts substantially to this: The Government realized that a large American army could not be got ready for action before next year. It was, therefore, determined that that army should fight with American weapons throughout. While these weapons were sadly lacking, partially through the lack of foresight by the country and Congress in years gone by, steps were taken slowly but advisedly to prepare to manufacture weapons on a scale never before duplicated anywhere.

When this decision was in the making American factories were turning out Enfield rifles for the British army at the rate of 10,000 a day. As a result of the decision to use rifles to fit American ammunition only these factories are turning out now only 5,000 a day, but the output is rapidly increasing. All troops going to France are fully armed, but those in training here are, at the present time, short of supplies.

Baker Adopts Browning Gun.
With reference to machine guns, factories in this country were turning out 2,000 Lewis guns a month for the British army. No new test of this gun was held for the American army, but a new gun, the Browning, was finally adopted in mid-summer by Secretary Baker personally as the American type and deliveries will begin early next spring.

In the meantime arrangements have been made with the British and French to supply American troops abroad out of their surplus.

ABUSE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Cyrus H. K. Curtis, owner of the Ladies' Home Journal and the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadelphia Ledger, is certainly no enemy of real temperance and no enemy of the prohibitionists. He has always been an earnest temperance worker.

In his newspaper, the Evening Public Ledger, he had this to say on Tuesday last:

"We have repeatedly pointed out in these columns that to prostitute the Constitution to purposes of legislation is to undermine the authority of that instrument and imperil thereby the stability of the Government. Prohibition is a policy, not a principle. The Constitution has never been the vehicle for declarations of policy. Not even the Monroe doctrine has been incorporated into the fundamental law. To compel all the States to conform to the police regulations of a majority of the States would be to destroy local government, which, within the corpus of vast sovereignties, as well as in colonies, has been found by human experience to be vital to contentment among citizens."

THE BAGDAD CORRIDOR

(Copyright, 1917, by John T. McCutcheon.)



BILL PROVIDES U. S. OWNERSHIP OF D. C. PHONES

Government ownership of the telephone system of the District of Columbia was provided for in a bill introduced in the Senate today by Senator Gore of Oklahoma.

The bill is the same as the one which Senator Gore introduced in the Sixty-fourth Congress. It is of peculiar interest at this time because of the fact the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company is endeavoring to increase its rates.

Under Senator Gore's bill the Government would own the telephone system, and it would be operated under the Postoffice Department. It is provided that any surplus postal receipts for 1918 shall be used in payment for the property.

MERCURY TO HOVER NEAR ZERO TONIGHT, WITH WEST WINDS

With a temperature of 24 degrees above zero at 1 o'clock this afternoon, Washington is promised by the Weather Bureau one of the coldest nights this season. The mercury will drop to twelve degrees above zero tonight, said the Weather Bureau.

The official forecast for today said: "Fair tonight and Saturday; colder tonight; minimum temperature about 12 degrees; fresh northwest winds."

The first ice of the season lured many skaters and winter sport lovers to the pond at Zoological Park yesterday afternoon. The skating proved poor, however, as the ice was rough. Some sections of the pond were roped off because of the thinness of the ice.

MEANS GLOWERS AS HE IS ACCUSED BY N. Y. ATTORNEY

COURT HOUSE, Concord, N. C., Dec. 14.—Debate in the trial of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, today reached an anti-climax.

Assistant District Attorney John T. Dooley, of New York, threw down the gauntlet to the defendant. Despite muttered threats against his safety, Dooley took the floor and in no gentle tones argued to the jury the guilt of Gaston B. Means.

Dooley's appearance was the signal for the display of greater interest than has been evident since Monday. As the New Yorker went on in his argument the courtroom began to fill, for the citizens of Concord wanted to see what would happen to Dooley.

HUDDLESTON TO PUSH BILL INCREASING CLERKS' PAY

Favorable Sentiment Grows in Congress—Federal Employees' Union to Affiliate With American Federation of Labor.

Going further than the Federation of Federal Employees for a general salary increase for all Federal and District employees, Congressman Huddleston is today making plans to force early consideration of a bill introduced by him in the House providing for a graded 15 to 25 per cent rate of increase.

Under the Huddleston bill employees now receiving \$1,200 and under will get a 25 per cent increase; those of the \$1,200 to \$2,000 grade, 20 per cent, and those receiving \$2,000 or more will benefit to the extent of a 15 per cent increase.

The Keating bill, which has the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor, provides for increases ranging from 30 per cent for employees now rated at \$900 or under, to 5 per cent for those being paid \$2,000 up to \$2,500.

Congress Is Favorable.
These bills are significant of the fact that there is much sentiment in Congress to deal liberally with the clerks. All indications are that the situation is growing brighter daily at the Capitol for liberal increases in the clerks' pay. With members of Congress themselves feeling the cost of living, they are more amenable than usual to representations in behalf of Government employees.

Prospects of District employees receiving the same base pay as Federal employees, regardless of any emergency increase authorized owing to the increased cost of living, loomed higher today following the exclusive announcement in The Times yesterday that Commissioner Brown—

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1.)

IMPORTANT PAPERS FOUND ON SUSPECT BY HALIFAX POLICE

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Dec. 14.—Two men were under arrest here today pending official investigation of the explosion of the munitions ship Mont Blanc, which cost nearly 1,300 lives, rendered 25,000 persons homeless, and created property damage of approximately \$20,000,000.

One of the men is John Johansen, helmsman of the Norwegian steamship Imo, the Belgian relief ship, which rammed the Mont Blanc. He is detained as a German spy. He was arrested, officials declared, while shamming illness in a Halifax hospital.

Henry French, another German suspect, was arrested on his arrival here from Boston on an American relief ship. Officials say his current name is Louis Vaugburg.

Navy Will Be Probed by Committee of the House

The Senate inquiry into the conduct of the war spread to the House of Representatives today when the House Naval Committee voted for a sweeping investigation of the navy.

Hearings of the investigating committee will commence immediately under the chairmanship of Congressman Oliver.

The investigation, it was stated, will go into every phase of the naval situation. Secretary Daniels and all active admirals right down the list will be called to testify.

A special investigating subcommittee of seven members was appointed as follows: Oliver, Alabama; Connelly, Kansas; Venable, Mississippi; Hensley, Missouri; Britten, Illinois; Hicks, New York, and Peters of Maine.

BLAMES SUGAR SHORTAGE ON FOOD BOARD

Claus A. Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, testifying before the Senate manufacturing subcommittee in the sugar investigation today, declared there is no sugar shortage "except in spots."

One of the spots is the Eastern United States, he said. The blame for what shortage exists he placed upon the Food Administration and its rules.

"The United States has ample sugar," he said. "The shortage is localized in the Eastern States. As a whole, there is plenty of sugar."

Mr. Spreckels added that there is enough sugar in Java to supply the whole British Isles for a year.

Nine-tenths of the sugar production in the United States is controlled, directly or indirectly, by the "Sugar trust," said Mr. Spreckels.

"Is there a 'sugar trust'?" asked Senator Reed, chairman of the committee.

"There is—the American Sugar Refining Company," Mr. Spreckels answered promptly.

Trust Controls 40 Per Cent.
"How much of the total sugar refining business does it control?" asked Senator Reed.

"About 40 per cent directly," answered Mr. Spreckels.

"How much does the Federal Sugar Refining Company?" asked Senator Reed.

"About 10 per cent," replied Mr. Spreckels.

"How many of the others are outside the 'trust' control?"

"I shouldn't guarantee any but my own," replied Mr. Spreckels. "A great many of them are more or less affiliated with the 'trust' in one way or another."

"You mean there is a sort of an umbrella?"

(Continued on Page 11, Column 1.)

2 DOGS BITE GIRL WHEN SHE CLIMBS TREE TO ESCAPE

Another attack by dogs was added to Washington's long list this morning. Thirteen-year-old Doris Burns, of 12 D street southeast, was bitten on both ankles by two canines said to belong to Max Reikes, a grocer, of 400 First street southeast.

The child, who is the daughter of William Burns, was on her way to school. As she walked in front of the yard next to the grocery the dogs, one a black and tan and the other a bull, without motive or tag, ran out from the yard. The frightened child started to climb a tree at which the animals seized her by her ankles, inflicting lacerations which were treated at Providence Hospital.

LT. WALCOTT FALLS WITH AERO AFTER BOLD FIGHT

Son of Secretary of Smithsonian May Be Dead—Lieut. G. M. Anderton, of Alexandria, Dies on Transport.

Two young men, well known in Washington, were included in lists of hurt and dead received from Europe today.

Lieut. Benjamin Stewart Walcott, twenty-one, of the Lafayette Escadrille, son of Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, fell in his first sky fight after bringing down one German flyer, according to cable advices from Paris today. It is feared that he was killed.

First Lieut. George M. Anderton, of Alexandria, died on a United States transport December 9, official dispatches said.

Attacked by Gotha.

Young Walcott was co-operating with allied flyers in reconnaissance over the German trenches. Gotha, whose a tipple attacked him. He managed to defeat his adversary and to send the machine crashing to the ground, when three large Teuton machines overhauled him. His machine was put out of action and fell to the ground. Whether he was killed in the fall or in the machine gun fire from the enemy planes was not disclosed in the dispatches.

He was in a section of the Lafayette escadrille, which had been actively co-operating with the allied flyers in raiding and reconnoitering work and in beating back efforts of the German flyers on similar missions. It was the first news that the American flyers had engaged in specific air battles against the Germans and the same cable told of the successful attack of Lieut. Harold Wright on a German air balloon.

Set Gas on Fire.

Lieutenant Wright swooped down from 5,000 feet to attack a German sausage balloon, firing a stream of bullets and utterly disregarding a barrage sent up by German anti-aircraft guns. One of his shots exploded the gas in the German bag. Wright returned safely.

The War Department had received no advice from Paris telling of the engagement and did not have the name of Lieutenant Walcott listed as in the air service. It was assumed that he probably entered the service after reaching France, and in that case there would naturally be no record here of his name.

His brother, First Lieut. Sydney S. Walcott, of the Signal Corps, stationed in Washington, and his father made repeated inquiry at the War Department during the morning and afternoon, but could gain no information. A cable was sent to the headquarters of the American army in France to furnish full details at the earliest possible moment.

Graduate of Princeton.

Lieutenant Walcott was graduated from Princeton last spring and immediately departed for France to offer his services in the Lafayette Escadrille. He took a course in flying and was commissioned only a few weeks ago. It was probably in his first flight of any consequence that he fell.

Apprised of News.

Mr. Walcott was first apprised of the dispatches telling of his son's mishap by his other son, Lieut. Sidney Walcott, as he was attending the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institution.

When reached over the phone at noon Mr. Walcott said:

"I have no means of crediting or discrediting the news until I have the means of doing so. My son Sidney is now investigating the matter."

The last letter from the young aviator to his family here was dated November 17.

LIEUT. G. M. ANDERTON, OF ALEXANDRIA, VA., DEAD ABOARD U. S. TRANSPORT

The death aboard a United States transport of Lieut. George M. Anderton, Engineer Corps, of Alexandria, Va., was announced by the War Department today.

Lieutenant Anderton, who was twenty-five years old, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Anderton, of

YESTERDAY
The Washington Times
GAINED

3,446 Lines of Advertising (12 Cols.)
Over the Corresponding Day (Dec. 14) Last Year.

EDGAR D. SHAW,
Publisher.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 14.—General Skalen, of the Russian staff, committed suicide under sensational circumstances today just prior to assembling of the Russian-German armistice conference, according to a dispatch from Trest Litovsk.

Full details are withheld. It was stated, however, that the Russian army commander shot himself. The suicide apparently occurred at German army headquarters.

TO RECESS FOR HOLIDAY.
Congress will adjourn for the annual Christmas recess next Tuesday, under a tentative agreement by leaders today.

\$331,000,000 VOTED FOR P. O. DEPARTMENT

Carrying a total of \$331,000,000, the postoffice appropriation bill passed the House today, viva voce.